

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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TAGS: MARR, PINT, NATO, DA

SUBJECT: GILSTRUP PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW DEFENSE
AGREEMENT.

SUMMARY: PROGRESS PARTY LEADER MOGENS GLISTRUP HAS
DECLARED THAT HE IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW DEFENSE
AGREEMENT. THIS MAJOR REVERSAL OF POLICY IS PROBABLY
MOTIVATED BY GLISTRUP'S DESIRE TO ACHIEVE PARLIAMENTARY
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RESEPECTABLY AND INCREASE HIS PUBLIC SUPPORT. OTHER PARTY

LEADERS OF THE CENTER AND RIGHT ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE AGREEMENT. THEY STILL WOULD LIKE TO KEEP GLISTRUP AT ARM'S LENGTH AND ARE MINDFUL THAT A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT GLISTRUP, OR THE RADICALS OR THE PARTIES OF THE FAR LEFT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR REVERSAL OF POLICY, THE LEADER OF DENMARK'S PROGRESS PARTY TOLK KRISTELIGT DABLAD OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS THAT HIS PARTY IS PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN A NEW DEFENSE COMPROMISE. MOGENS GLISTRUP WAS QUOTED AS BEING IN FAVOR OF A LONGER DURATION FOR THE NEW AGREEMENT - AT LEAST SIX YEARS AND HOPEFULLY EIGHT.

2. COMMENT: HERETOFORE GLISTRUP HIMSELF -- ALTHOUGH NOT MOST OF HIS PARTY -- HAS BEEN OPPOSED TO ALL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. THE DEPT WILL RECALL THAT A FEW YEARS AGO HE PROPOSED THE DISMANTLING OF THE ENTIRE DANISH DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY A TELEPHONE RECORDING IN RUSSIAN SAYING SIMPLY, "WE SURRENDER." ON WHAT MAY BE A SOMEWHAT MORE SERIOUS LEVEL, GLISTRUP HAS ASSERTED THAT DENMARK IS INDEFENSIBLE USING CONVENTION MILITARY TACTICS AND EQUIPMENT. IN HIS VIEW, EFFECTIVE DANISH RESISTANCE TO INVASION BY WARSAW PACT FORCES COULD ONLY BE MOUNTED THROUGH RESISTANCE-TYPE ACTIONS AGAINST THE INVADERS.

3. ONE MOTIVATION BEHIND GLISTRUP'S SHIFT MAY HAVE BEEN HIS INTENTION TO PLAY WHAT HE HOPED TO BE A TRUMP CARD TO GAIN ADMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY CLUB FROM WHICH HE HAS BEEN EXCLUDED. ACCEPTANCE AS AN "ESTABLISHED AND RESPECTABLE" PARTY LEADER REMAINS VERY MUCH ONE OF GLISTRUP'S PRINCIPAL GOALS.

4. IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE OTHER PARTIES OF THE CENTER AND RIGHT, WHICH WILL PUT TOGETHER A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT, WILL WELCOME GLISTRUP'S FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH IT. ALL PARTY LEADERS REGARD GLISTRUP AS UNPRINCIPLED AND UNTRUSTWORTHY AND HOPE THAT HIS MOVEMENT WILL WITHER AWAY.

5. THE LIBERAL CHAIRMAN OF THE FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT)
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DEFENSE COMMITTEE, ARNE CHRISTIANSEN, TOLD POLCOUNS THAT DUE TO THE CHRISTMASS RECESS NEITHER THE LIBERALS, NOR TO HIS KNOWLEDGE ANY OTHER PARTY, HAD DECIDED HOW TO PLAY GLISTRUP'S APPARENT OFFER. CHRISTIANSEN SAID THAT IF GLISTRUP WERE SINCERE AND WISHED TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF AND HIS PARTY WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT, THEY WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME ONE OF ITS "CO-SPONSORS". THIS WOULD GIVE THEM ACCESS TO THE ELITE "DOUBLE FOUR" COMMITTEE WHERE IMPORTANT DEFENSE

QUESTIONS ARE CONSIDERED OUTSIDE THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE ON WHICH PARTIES OF THE FAR LEFT ARE REPRESENTED. FURTHERMORE GLISTRUP-- LIKE THE RADICALS -- MIGHT SEEK TO CONDITION HIS SUPPORT ON GREATER DEFENSE ECONOMIES THAN THE OTHER PARTIES OF THE CENTER AND RIGHT WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT.

6. IT WOULD APPEAR THEN THAT THE "ESTABLISHED" PARTIES ARE IN SOMEWHAT OF A CONUNDRUM, THE OUTCOME OF WHICH WILL NOT BECOME CLEAR UNTIL SERIOUS POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT BEGIN LATER THIS MONTH OR EARLY FEBRUARY. THE CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES ARE MINDFUL THAT GLISTRUP'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WIN HIM VOTES ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, ESPECIALLY FROM THE ALREADY WEAK AND DIVIDED CONSERVATIVE PARTY. IN THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS, THE LIBERALS AND THEIR ALLIES WOULD HOPE THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT GLISTRUP'S VOTING SUPPORT ON THE DEFENSE QUESTION AND STILL KEEP HIM AT ARM'S LENGTH. INCONSISTENCY ON THE PART OF THE POLITICIANS IS NOT NECESSARILY A VICE AND GLISTRUP MIGHT WELL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN HIS CHANGE OF VIEW TO HIS POLITICAL SUPPORTERS AND AT THE SAME TIME INCREASE HIS OVERALL STRENGTH.

7. IN ANY CASE, IN THE MANEUVERING OVER THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS ON A CONCLUSION OF THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND THE PARTIES TO SUPPORT IT, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE LIBERALS AND THEIR ALLIES WILL BE MINDFUL THAT A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY FOR NEW AGREEMENT CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY BE OBTAINED WITHOUT EITHER GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVES, OR THE RADICALS, OR THE THREE PARTIES OF THE FAR LEFT.
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